Studies L-3032.5, H-850

March 18, 2021

Memorandum 2021-15

Stock Cooperatives and Uniform TOD Security Registration Act (Draft of Proposed Legislation)

In this study, the Commission¹ is developing a proposed law that could be used to make a nonprobate transfer on death of a decedent's ownership interest in a stock cooperative.

The Commission has made all the necessary decisions regarding the substance of the proposed law. The staff has prepared a draft of proposed legislation to implement those decisions. It is attached. This is the first opportunity that the Commission has had to see the entirety of the proposal, expressed in statutory form. If the Commission has any concerns or suggestions about the language, they could be addressed now.

A Few Noteworthy Points

Location of Proposed Law

The proposed law would create a new form of nonprobate transfer. For that reason, it should be located in Division 5 ("Nonprobate Transfers") of the Probate Code. Because the proposed law has so much in common with the revocable transfer on death deed (RTODD) statute, it would make sense to place the proposed law adjacent to that statute.

To accomplish that, the staff proposes to move existing Part 5 ("Gifts in View of Impending Death"), which follows immediately after the RTODD statute and is the last part in Division 5. The proposed law would take its place and part number.

That move actually makes sense on its own merits. The law on gifts in view of impending death is not really a nonprobate transfer statute. It governs the effect

^{1.} Any California Law Revision Commission document referred to in this memorandum can be obtained from the Commission. Recent materials can be downloaded from the Commission's website (www.clrc.ca.gov). Other materials can be obtained by contacting the Commission's staff, through the website or otherwise.

The Commission welcomes written comments at any time during its study process. Any comments received will be a part of the public record and may be considered at a public meeting. However, comments that are received less than five business days prior to a Commission meeting may be presented without staff analysis.

of certain gifts of personal property made *during life*. It does not involve an atdeath transfer of property.

Relation to RTODD Statute

Because the proposed law borrows so many of the provisions of the RTODD statute, the staff considered whether it would be best to embed the proposed law within the existing RTODD statute.

The staff decided against that approach. Adapting the RTODD statute to cover stock cooperative property would have required numerous fiddly changes to language, as well as the creation of a set of provisions that would override the RTODD statute when it is applied to stock cooperative property.

Instead, the proposed legislation creates an entirely new statute. Many of its provisions are modeled very closely after provisions of the RTODD statute. Comments to those sections point out that relationship.

Relation to RTODD Follow-Up Recommendation

In a few instances, the language used in the attached draft follows the language of the RTODD statute *as it would be amended by the Commission's follow-up recommendation* (pending in SB 315 (Roth)). In some of the most significant instances of this, Notes have been added to explain that relationship.

NEXT STEP

After the Commission has had a chance to evaluate the proposed legislation and make any necessary changes, the staff will prepare a draft of a full tentative recommendation for presentation at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Hebert Executive Director

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1	PROPOSED LEGISLATION
2 3 4	Prob. Code §§ 5800-5980 (added). TOD Registration of Property in Stock Cooperative SEC Part 5 (commencing with Section 5800) is added to Division 2 of the Probate Code, to read:
•	1100400 0040, to 1044.
5	PART 5. TOD REGISTRATION OF PROPERTY IN
6	STOCK COOPERATIVE
7	CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS
8	ARTICLE 1. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS
9	§ 5800. Dates of application
10	5800. (a) This part applies to a TOD registration made by a transferor who dies on or
11	after January 1, 2022, whether the TOD registration was executed or recorded before, on
12	or after January 1, 2022.
13	(b) Nothing in this part invalidates an otherwise valid transfer under Section 5804.
14 15	Comment . Section 5800 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5600 (revocable transfe on death deed).
16 17 18	Note . This tentative recommendation does not include a sunset date. The Commission is waiting to see the final effect of SB 315 (Roth) on the sunset date in the revocable transfer on death deed statute before deciding whether to include a sunset date in this proposal.
19	§ 5802. Participation of stock cooperative is optional
20	5802. (a) A stock cooperative is not required to offer or to accept requests for TOD
21	registration.
22	(b) If TOD registration is offered by a stock cooperative, the transferor requesting TOD
23	registration assents to the protections given to the stock cooperative by this part.
24	(c) By accepting a request for TOD registration, the stock cooperative agrees that the
25	TOD registration will be implemented as provided in this part.
26 27	Comment. Section 5802 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5508(a)-(b) (TOE registration of securities).
28	§ 5804. Other forms of transfer-on-death not precluded
29	5804. This part does not preclude use of any other method of conveying real property
30	that is permitted by law and that has the effect of postponing enjoyment of the property
31	until the death of the owner.
32 33	Comment . Section 5804 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5602 (revocable transfe on death deed).

§ 5806. Application of other law

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- 5806. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), nothing in this part affects the 2 application of any other statute governing a nonprobate transfer on death, including, but 3 not limited to, any of the following provisions that by its terms or intent would apply to a 4 nonprobate transfer on death: 5
 - (1) Division 2 (commencing with Section 100).
- (2) Part 1 (commencing with Section 5000) of this division. 7
- (3) Division 10 (commencing with Section 20100). 8
- (4) Division 11 (commencing with Section 21101). 9
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a provision of another statute governing a 10 nonprobate transfer on death does not apply to a TOD registration to the extent this part provides a contrary rule.
- Comment. Section 5806 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5604 (revocable transfer 13 14 on death deed).

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS

§ 5810. Application of article 16

- 17 5810. Unless the provision or context otherwise requires, the definitions in this article govern the construction of this part. 18
- 19 Comment. Section 5810 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5606 (revocable transfer 20 on death deed).

§ 5812. "Beneficiary" defined 21

- 22 5812. "Beneficiary" means a person named in a TOD registration as transferee of 23 property. A natural person, trust, or legal entity may be named as a beneficiary.
- 24 Comment. Section 5812 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5608 (revocable transfer 25 on death deed).
- 26 **Note.** The second sentence of proposed Section 5812 is drawn from a provision recommended by
- 27 the Commission in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See
- generally Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n 28
- Reports 135 (2019). That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth). 29

§ 5814. "Property" defined 30

- 5814. "Property" means a separate interest in a stock cooperative, as defined in 31
- paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 4185 of the Civil Code, along with any 32
- 33 ancillary interest in the common area, as defined in Section 4095 of the Civil Code.
- **Comment**. Section 5804 is new. It is added for drafting convenience. 34

§ 5816. "Recorded" defined 35

- 5816. "Recorded" has the meaning provided in Section 1170 of the Civil Code. 36
- Comment. Section 5816 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5612 (revocable transfer 37 38 on death deed).

1 § 5820. "Stock cooperative" defined

- 2 5820. "Stock cooperative" has the meaning provided in Section 4190 of the Civil Code.
- 3 **Comment.** Section 5820 is new. It is added for drafting convenience.

4 § 5822. "Transfer on death registration," "TOD registration" defined

- 5 5822. "Transfer on death registration" or "TOD registration" means an instrument created pursuant to this part that does all of the following:
 - (a) Makes a donative transfer of property in a stock cooperative to a named beneficiary.
- 8 (b) Operates on the transferor's death.
 - (c) Remains revocable until the transferor's death.
- 10 **Comment.** Section 5822 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5614 (revocable transfer on death deed).

12 § 5824 "Transferor" defined

- 13 5824. "Transferor" means an owner of property in a stock cooperative who makes a
- 14 TOD registration for that property.
- 15 **Comment.** Section 5824 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5616 (revocable transfer
- on death deed).

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17 § 5826 "Unsecured debt" defined

- 18 5824. "Unsecured debts" includes, but is not limited to, a transferor's funeral expenses,
- expenses of a transferor's last illness, and wage claims.
- 20 **Comment.** Section 5826 is new.
- Note. Section 5826 is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its follow-up
- study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer on Death*
- 23 Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That provision would
- be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

CHAPTER 2. EXECUTION AND REVOCATION

ARTICLE 1. EXECUTION

27 § 5830. Required capacity

- 5830. An owner of property who has the capacity to contract may make a TOD
- 29 registration for the property.
- Comment. Section 5830 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5620 (revocable transfer on death deed).

32 § 5832. Identification of beneficiary

- 5832. The transferor shall identify the beneficiary by name in a TOD registration.
- Comment. Section 5832 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5622 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5834. Signature and acknowledgment

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- 5834. A TOD registration is not effective unless it is signed by both the transferor and an agent of the stock cooperative, dated, and acknowledged by both the transferor and the agent before a notary public.
- Comment. Section 5834 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5624 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5836. Recordation, delivery, acceptance

- 5836. (a) A TOD registration is not effective unless the TOD registration is recorded on or before 60 days after the date it was executed.
- (b) The transferor is not required to deliver a TOD registration to the beneficiary during the transferor's life.
- (c) The beneficiary is not required to accept a TOD registration from the transferor during the transferor's life.
- (d) Subdivision (a) does not require the recordation of the "Common Questions" language that is specified in subdivision (b) of Section 5850. The failure to record that part of the statutory form has no effect on the effectiveness of a TOD registration.
- 17 **Comment.** Section 5836 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5626 (revocable transfer on death deed).

19 § 5838. Effect of TOD registration on prior TOD registration

- 5838. (a) If a TOD registration is recorded for the same property for which another TOD registration is recorded, the later executed TOD registration is the operative instrument and its recordation revokes the earlier executed TOD registration.
- 23 (b) Revocation of a TOD registration does not revive an instrument earlier revoked by 24 recordation of that TOD registration.
- Comment. Section 5838 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5628 (revocable transfer on death deed).

ARTICLE 2. REVOCATION

28 § 5840. Required capacity

- 5840. A transferor who has the capacity to contract may revoke a TOD registration at any time.
- Comment. Section 5840 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5630 (revocable transfer on death deed).

33 **§ 5842. Execution**

- 5842. (a) An instrument revoking a TOD registration shall be executed and recorded in the same manner as execution and recordation of a TOD registration.
- 36 (b) Joinder, consent, or agreement of, or notice to, the beneficiary is not required for revocation of a TOD registration.

Comment. Section 5842 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5632 (revocable transfer

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2 on death deed). ARTICLE 3. STATUTORY FORMS 3 4 § 5850. Mandatory TOD registration form 5850. A TOD registration shall be substantially in the following form. 5 (a) The first page of the form shall be substantially the following: 6 TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) REGISTRATION 7 OF PROPERTY IN STOCK COOPERATIVE 8 9 (California Probate Code Section 5850) 10 Recording Requested By: 11 When Recorded Mail This Document To 12 13 Name: Address: 14 15 Assessor's Parcel Number: 16 17 Space Above For Recorder's Use 18 19 This document is exempt from documentary transfer tax under Rev. & Tax. Code § 20 11930. This document is exempt from preliminary change of ownership report under 21 Rev. & Tax. Code § 480.3. 22 IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS TOD REGISTRATION MUST BE RECORDED ON 23 24 OR BEFORE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE IT IS SIGNED AND NOTARIZED Use this TOD registration to transfer the property described below directly to your 25 named beneficiaries when you die. YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY READ ALL OF THE 26 INFORMATION ON THE OTHER PAGES OF THIS FORM. You may wish to consult 27 28 an attorney before using this form. It may have results that you do not want. Provide only the information asked for in the form. DO NOT INSERT ANY OTHER 29 INFORMATION OR INSTRUCTIONS. This form MUST be RECORDED on or before 30 31 60 days after the date it is signed and notarized or it will not be effective. 32 PROPERTY DESCRIPTION 33 Print the legal description of the property in a stock cooperative that is affected by this 34 35 TOD registration: 36 37 38 39 BENEFICIARY(IES)

1 2	Name the person(s) or entity(ies) who will receive the described property on your death.
3	IF YOU ARE NAMING A PERSON, state the person's FULL NAME (DO NOT use
4	general terms like "my children"). You may also wish to state the RELATIONSHIP that
5	the person has to you (spouse, son, daughter, friend, etc.), but this is not required.
6	IF YOU ARE NAMING A TRUST, state the full name of the trust, the name of the
7	trustee(s), and the date shown on the signature page of the trust.
8	IF YOU ARE NAMING A PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITY, state the name of the
9	entity as precisely as you can.
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12	TRANSFER ON DEATH
13 14	I transfer all of my interest in the described property in a stock cooperative to the
15	named beneficiary(ies) on my death. I may revoke this TOD registration. When recorded,
15 16	this TOD registration revokes any prior TOD registration that I made before signing this
17	TOD registration.
18	Sign and print your name below (your name should exactly match the name shown on
19	your ownership documents):
20	your ownership documents).
21	
22	Date
23	
24	NOTE: This TOD registration only transfers MY ownership share of the described
25	property in the stock cooperative. The TOD registration does NOT transfer the share of
26	any co-owner of the described property. Any co-owner who wants to name a TOD
27	beneficiary must execute and RECORD a SEPARATE TOD registration.
28	
29	
30	SIGNATURE OF STOCK COOPERATIVE'S AGENT
31	
32	To be valid, this TOD registration must be signed and dated by an authorized agent of
33	the stock cooperative.
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35	
36	Date
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43	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NOTARY PUBLIC

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To be valid, the signatures of the transferor and the agent of the stock cooperative must be acknowledged before a notary public. The certificate of the notary public may be included in this form or attached to it. IF THE NOTARY'S CERTIFICATE IS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT, IT MUST BE RECORDED ALONG WITH THIS FORM.

(b) Subsequent pages of a form executed under this section shall be in substantially the following form:

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF THIS FORM

I AM BEING PRESSURED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM. WHAT SHOULD I DO? Do NOT complete this form unless you freely choose to do so. If you are being pressured to dispose of your property in a way that you do not want, you may want to alert a family member, friend, the district attorney, or a senior service agency.

WHAT DOES THE TOD REGISTRATION DO? When you die, the identified property in a stock cooperative will transfer to your named beneficiary without probate. The TOD registration has no effect until you die. You can revoke it at any time.

HOW DO I USE THE TOD REGISTRATION? Complete this form, including having it signed by an agent of the stock cooperative. Have your signature and the agent's signature notarized. RECORD the form in the county where the property is located. The form MUST be recorded on or before 60 days after the date you sign it or the TOD registration will have no effect. If the notary's certificate is a separate document, it must also be recorded along with this form.

IF I AM UNABLE TO SIGN THE DEED, MAY I ASK SOMEONE ELSE TO SIGN MY NAME FOR ME? Yes. However, if the person who signs for you would benefit from the transfer of your property, there is a chance that the transfer would fail. You may wish to consult an attorney before taking that step.

IS THE "LEGAL DESCRIPTION" OF THE PROPERTY NECESSARY? Yes.

HOW DO I FIND THE "LEGAL DESCRIPTION" OF THE PROPERTY? This information may be on the documents you received when you became an owner of the property. This information may also be available from an agent of the stock cooperative or in the office of the county recorder for the county where the property is located. If you are not absolutely sure, consult an attorney.

HOW DO I "RECORD" THE FORM? Take the completed and notarized form to the county recorder for the county in which the property is located. Follow the instructions given by the county recorder to make the form part of the official property records. If the notary's certificate is a separate page, it must be recorded too.

WHAT IF I SHARE OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY IN A STOCK COOPERATIVE? This form only transfers YOUR share of the property. If a co-owner also wants to name a TOD beneficiary, that co-owner must complete and RECORD a separate TOD registration form.

CAN I REVOKE THE TOD REGISTRATION IF I CHANGE MY MIND? Yes. You may revoke the TOD registration at any time. No one, including your beneficiary, can prevent you from revoking the TOD registration.

HOW DO I REVOKE THE TOD REGISTRATION? There are three ways to revoke a recorded TOD registration: (1) Complete, have notarized, and RECORD a revocation form. (2) Create, have notarized, and RECORD a new TOD registration that affects the same property. (3) Sell or give away the property, or transfer it to a trust, before your death and RECORD the document that transferred your property to the trust. A TOD registration can only affect property that you own when you die. A TOD registration cannot be revoked by a will.

CAN I REVOKE A TOD REGISTRATION BY CREATING A NEW DOCUMENT THAT DISPOSES OF THE PROPERTY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY CREATING A NEW TOD REGISTRATION OR BY ASSIGNING THE PROPERTY TO A TRUST)? Yes, but only if the new document is RECORDED. To avoid any doubt, you may wish to RECORD a TOD registration revocation form before creating the new instrument. A TOD registration cannot be revoked by a will, or by purporting to leave your property in a stock cooperative to anyone via will.

IF I SELL OR GIVE AWAY THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN A TOD REGISTRATION, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE? If the other document used to transfer your property is RECORDED before your death, the TOD registration will have no effect. If the transfer document is not RECORDED before your death, the TOD registration will take effect.

DO I NEED TO TELL MY BENEFICIARY ABOUT THE TOD REGISTRATION? No. But secrecy can cause later complications and might make it easier for others to commit fraud.

WHAT DOES MY BENEFICIARY NEED TO DO WHEN I DIE? Your beneficiary must RECORD evidence of your death (Prob. Code § 210), present that evidence to the stock cooperative, and file a change in ownership notice (Rev. & Tax. Code § 480). If you received Medi-Cal benefits, your beneficiary must notify the State Department of Health Care Services of your death and provide a copy of your death certificate (Prob. Code § 215).

WHAT IF I NAME MORE THAN ONE BENEFICIARY? Your beneficiaries will become co-owners in equal shares as tenants in common. If you want a different result, you should not use this form.

HOW DO I NAME BENEFICIARIES? (1) If the beneficiary is a person, you MUST state the person's FULL name. You MAY NOT use general terms to describe beneficiaries, such as "my children." You may also briefly state that person's relationship to you (for example, my spouse, my son, my daughter, my friend, etc.), but this is not required. (2) If the beneficiary is a trust, you MUST name the trust, name the trustee(s), and state the date shown on the trust's signature page. (3) If the beneficiary is a public or private entity, name the entity as precisely as you can.

WHAT IF A BENEFICIARY DIES BEFORE I DO? If all beneficiaries die before you, the TOD registration has no effect. If a beneficiary dies before you, but other

1 2	beneficiaries survive you, the share of the deceased beneficiary will be divided equally between the surviving beneficiaries. If that is not the result you want, you should not use
3	TOD registration.
4	WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF A TOD REGISTRATION ON PROPERTY THAT I
5	OWN AS JOINT TENANCY OR COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHT OF
6	SURVIVORSHIP? If you are the first joint tenant or spouse to die, the TOD registration
7	is VOID and has no effect. The property transfers to your joint tenant or surviving spouse
8	and not according to the TOD registration. If you are the last joint tenant or spouse to die,
9	the TOD registration takes effect and controls the ownership of your property in the stock
10	cooperative when you die. If you do not want these results, do not use TOD registration.
11	TOD registration does NOT transfer the share of a co-owner of the property. Any co-
12	owner who wants to name a TOD beneficiary must complete and RECORD a
13	SEPARATE TOD registration.
14	CAN I ADD OTHER CONDITIONS ON THE FORM? No. If you do, your
15	beneficiary may need to go to court to clear title.
16	IS PROPERTY TRANSFERRED BY THE TOD REGISTRATION SUBJECT TO
17	MY DEBTS? Yes.
18	DOES THE TOD REGISTRATION HELP ME TO AVOID GIFT AND ESTATE
19	TAXES? No.
20	HOW DOES THE TOD REGISTRATION AFFECT PROPERTY TAXES? The TOD
21	registration has no effect on your property taxes until your death. At that time, property
22	tax law applies as it would to any other change of ownership.
23	DOES THE TOD REGISTRATION AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDI-CAL?
24	No.
25 26	Comment . Section 5850 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5642 (revocable transfer on death deed).
27	§ 5852. Mandatory revocation form
28	5852. A transferor may revoke a TOD registration by an instrument in substantially the
29	following form:
30	REVOCATION OF TRANSFER ON DEATH (TOD) REGISTRATION
31	OF A PROPERTY IN A STOCK COOPERATIVE
32	(California Probate Code Section 5852)
33	(Camorina Produce Code Section 3032)
34	Recording Requested By:
35	resoraning respective by
36	When Recorded Mail This Document To
37	Name:
38	Address:
39	Assessor's Parcel Number:
40	
41	Space Above For Recorder's Use

1 2	This TOD registration revocation is exempt from documentary transfer tax under Rev & Tax. Code §11930. This TOD registration revocation is exempt from preliminary
3	change of ownership report under Rev. & Tax. Code § 480.3.
4	change of ownership report under Nev. & Tax. Code § 400.5.
5	IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS FORM MUST BE RECORDED TO BE EFFECTIVE
6 7	This revocation form MUST be RECORDED within 60 days or it will not be effective
8	This revocation form only affects a TOD registration that YOU made. A TOE
9	registration made by a co-owner of your property is not affected by this revocation form
10	A co-owner who wants to revoke a TOD registration that the co-owner made mus
11	complete and RECORD a SEPARATE revocation form.
12	
13	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION
14	
15	Print the legal description of the property affected by this revocation:
16	
17	
18	
19	REVOCATION
20	
21	I revoke any TOD registration to transfer the described property in a stock cooperative
22	that I executed before executing this form.
23 24	SIGNATURE AND DATE
2 4 25	SIGNATURE AND DATE
26	Sign and print your name below (your name should exactly match the name shown or
27	your title documents):
28	y
29	Date
30	
31	SIGNATURE OF STOCK COOPERATIVE'S AGENT
32	
33	To be valid, this TOD registration must be signed and dated by an authorized agent of
34	the stock cooperative.
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36	Date
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40 41	To be valid the signetures of the transferor and the exact of the steel accommending
41 42	To be valid, the signatures of the transferor and the agent of the stock cooperative must be acknowledged before a notary public. The certificate of the notary public may be
T ∠	be acknowledged before a notary public. The certificate of the notary public may be

- included in this form or attached to it. IF THE NOTARY'S CERTIFICATE IS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT, IT MUST BE RECORDED ALONG WITH THIS FORM.
- Comment. Section 5852 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5644 (revocable transfer on death deed).

CHAPTER 3. EFFECT

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 5860. Effect during transferor's life

- 5860. During the transferor's life, execution and recordation of a TOD registration:
- (a) Does not affect the ownership rights of the transferor, and the transferor or the transferor's agent or other fiduciary may convey, assign, contract, encumber, or otherwise deal with the property, and the property is subject to process of the transferor's creditors, as if no TOD registration were executed or recorded.
- (b) Does not create any legal or equitable right in the beneficiary, and the property is not subject to process of the beneficiary's creditors.
 - (c) Does not transfer or convey any right, title, or interest in the property.
- **Comment**. Section 5860 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5650 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5862. Effect on the transferor's death

- 5862. (a) A TOD registration transfers all of the transferor's interest in the property on the transferor's death according to the following rules:
- (1) Subject to the beneficiary's right to disclaim the transfer, the interest in the property is transferred to the beneficiary in accordance with the TOD registration.
- (2) The interest of a beneficiary is contingent on the beneficiary surviving the transferor. Notwithstanding Section 21110, the interest of a beneficiary that fails to survive the transferor lapses.
- (3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), if there is more than one beneficiary, they take the property as tenants in common, in equal shares.
- (4) If there is more than one beneficiary, the share of a beneficiary that lapses or fails for any reason is transferred to the others in equal shares.
- (b) Property is transferred by a TOD registration subject to any limitation on the transferor's interest that is of record at the time of the transferor's death or that is recorded no later than 120 days after the transferor's death, including, but not limited to, a lien, encumbrance, easement, lease, or other instrument affecting the transferor's interest, whether recorded before or after recordation of the TOD registration. The holder of rights under that instrument may enforce those rights against the property notwithstanding its transfer by the TOD registration. An enforceable restriction on the use of the transferred property does not affect the transfer of title to the property by a TOD registration.
 - (c) A TOD registration transfers the property without covenant or warranty of title.

Comment. Section 5862 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5652 (revocable transfer on death deed).

- Notes. (1) Parts of Section 5862(b) are drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study*, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019).
- 6 That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).
 - (2) The Commission invites public comment on whether subdivision (c), disclaiming any implied covenant or warranty of title, is necessary in the context of a stock cooperative.

§ 5864. Restriction on transferred property

- 5864. (a) Property that is transferred pursuant to a TOD registration remains subject to any limitation on the transferor's interest that was enforceable against the property pursuant to the stock cooperative's governing documents or an agreement between the transferor and the stock cooperative, including, but not limited to, a restriction on occupancy, an option to purchase the property on the transferor's death, or a limitation on the transfer value in a limited equity housing cooperative. The holder of those rights may enforce them against the property notwithstanding its transfer pursuant to a TOD registration.
- (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), property may be transferred by TOD registration even if the beneficiary is not eligible, under the governing documents of the stock cooperative, to occupy the transferred property.
- (c) If the stock cooperative exercises an option to purchase property transferred by TOD registration on the owner's death, the result is as follows:
 - (1) The property is transferred to the stock cooperative rather than the beneficiary.
- (2) The purchase price is paid to the beneficiary. Unless the law or the governing documents of the stock cooperative provide otherwise, the purchase price is the fair market value of the property, less the amount of any liens or encumbrances on the property at the time of the owner's death and less any amount that the decedent owed the stock cooperative.

Comment. Section 5864 is new.

Subdivision (a) provides that property that is transferred pursuant to a TOD registration remains subject to any interests or limitations provided under the stock cooperative's governing documents or an agreement between the transferor and the stock cooperative (e.g., an occupancy agreement).

Subdivision (b) provides that a property may be transferred to a beneficiary who is not eligible to occupy the property (e.g., the beneficiary is too young to reside in an age-restricted community). Such ineligibility does not affect the beneficiary's ability to transfer the property to another person.

Subdivision (c) addresses the effect of TOD registration when a stock cooperative exercises an option to purchase the registered property on the owner's death. Paragraph (2) of that subdivision makes clear that the price paid to purchase property in a stock cooperative may be limited by law or the governing documents of the stock cooperative. For example, in a limited equity housing cooperative, the amount paid will be based on a specified transfer value, rather than fair market value. See Civ. Code § 817.

1 § 5866. Effect on Medi-Cal

- 5866. (a) For the purpose of determination of eligibility for health care under Chapter 7
- 3 (commencing with Section 14000) or Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 14200) of
- 4 Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, execution and recordation of a
- 5 TOD registration is not a lifetime transfer of the property.
- 6 (b) Property transferred by a TOD registration is subject to claims of the State
- 7 Department of Health Care Services to the extent authorized by law.
- 8 **Comment.** Section 5866 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5654 (revocable transfer on death deed).

10 § 5868. Effect on taxation

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- 5868. For the purpose of application of the property taxation and documentary transfer tax provisions of the Revenue and Taxation Code:
- (a) Execution and recordation of, or revocation of, a TOD registration of property is not a change in ownership of the property and does not require declaration or payment of a documentary transfer tax or filing of a preliminary change of ownership report.
- 16 (b) Transfer of real property on the death of the transferor by a TOD registration is a 17 change in ownership of the property.
- 18 **Comment.** Section 5868 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5656 (revocable transfer on death deed).

20 § 5870. Application of cy pres

- 5670. A court in which the transferor's estate is being administered may, on the petition of the personal representative or interested person, or on its own motion, apply the doctrine of cy pres to reform a TOD registration that was made by the transferor for a charitable purpose, in either of the following circumstances:
- 25 (a) The beneficiary does not accept the gift.
- 26 (b) The beneficiary is a legal entity that dissolved or was merged into another entity before the transferor's death.
- 28 **Comment.** Section 5870 is new.
- Note. Proposed Section 5870 is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its
- 30 follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer*
- on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That
- provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

§ 5872. Effect of error or ambiguity

- 5872. An error or ambiguity in describing property or designating a beneficiary does
- not invalidate a TOD registration if the transferor's intention can be determined by a
- 36 court. The general law that governs judicial construction or reformation of a contract
- applies to a revocable transfer on death deed.
- 38 **Comment.** Section 5872 is new.
- Note. Proposed Section 5872 is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its
- 40 follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer*

on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

ARTICLE 2. OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND FORMS OF TENURE

§ 5880. Contrary instrument

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- 5880. If a TOD registration recorded on or before 60 days after the date it was executed and another instrument both purport to dispose of the same property:
- (a) If the other instrument is not recorded within 120 days after the transferor's death, the TOD registration is the operative instrument.
- (b) If the other instrument is recorded within 120 days after the transferor's death and makes a revocable disposition of the property, the later executed of the TOD registration or the other instrument is the operative instrument.
- (c) If the other instrument is recorded within 120 days after the transferor's death and makes an irrevocable disposition of the property, the other instrument, and not the TOD registration, is the operative instrument.
- 16 **Comment.** Section 5880 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5660 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5882. Right of survivorship

- 5882. If, at the time of the transferor's death, title to the property described in the TOD registration is held in joint tenancy or as community property with right of survivorship, the TOD registration is void. The transferor's interest in the property is governed by the right of survivorship and not by the TOD registration.
- Comment. Section 5882 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5664 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5884. Spousal consent to transfer of community property

- 5884. (a) Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5010) of Part 1 applies to a TOD registration of community property.
- (b) For the purpose of application of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 5010) of Part 1 to a TOD registration of community property, written consent to the TOD registration, revocation of written consent to the TOD registration, or modification of the TOD registration, is ineffective unless recorded within the time required by that chapter for execution or service of the written consent, revocation, or modification.
- Comment. Section 5884 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5666 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5886. Community property with right of survivorship

5886, A TOD registration of community property with right of survivorship is subject to Section 5884, relating to a TOD registration of community property.

Comment. Section 5886 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5668 (revocable transfer on death deed).

ARTICLE 3. CREDITORS

§ 5890. Secured debt

5890. Notwithstanding any other statute governing priorities among creditors, a creditor of the transferor whose right is evidenced at the time of the transferor's death by an encumbrance or lien of record on property transferred by a TOD registration has priority against the property over a creditor of the beneficiary, regardless of whether the beneficiary's obligation was created before or after the transferor's death and regardless of whether the obligation is secured or unsecured, voluntary or involuntary, recorded or unrecorded.

Comment. Section 5890 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5670 (revocable transfer on death deed).

Note. The staff invites public comment on whether the time provided in 5980 should be extended to 120 days after the transferor's death.

§ 5892. Personal liability of beneficiary

5892. Each beneficiary is personally liable to the extent provided in Section 5894 for the unsecured debts of the transferor. That debt may be enforced against the beneficiary in the same manner as it could have been enforced against the transferor if the transferor had not died. In any action based on the debt, the beneficiary may assert any defense, cross-complaint, or setoff that would have been available to the transferor if the transferor had not died. Nothing in this section permits enforcement of a claim that is barred under Part 4 (commencing with Section 9000) of Division 7. Section 366.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure applies in an action under this section.

Comment. Section 5892 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5672 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5894. Scope of personal liability

- 5894. (a) A beneficiary is not liable under Section 5892 if proceedings for the administration of the transferor's estate are commenced and the beneficiary satisfies the requirements of Section 5896 or 5898.
- (b) The personal liability of a beneficiary under Section 5892 shall not exceed the fair market value at the time of the transferor's death or the specified transfer value in a limited equity housing cooperative, of the property received by the beneficiary pursuant to the TOD registration, less the amount of any liens and encumbrances on the property at that time.
- **Comment.** Section 5894 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5674 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5896. Personal liability to estate

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- 5896. (a) If proceedings for the administration of the transferor's estate are commenced, a beneficiary of a TOD registration is personally liable to the estate for a share of the transferor's unsecured debts.
- (b) In calculating the beneficiary's share of liability under subdivision (a), the abatement rules provided in Part 4 (commencing with Section 21400) of Division 11 shall be applied, using all of the following assumptions:
- (1) The property that was transferred to the beneficiary by TOD registration shall be treated as if it were a specific gift made by the decedent's will.
- (2) The value of the property received by the beneficiary pursuant to the TOD registration shall be deemed to be the fair market value of the property at the time of the transferor's death or the specified transfer value in a limited equity housing cooperative, less the amount of any liens and encumbrances on the property at that time.
- (3) Any unsecured debts of the transferor that were paid by the beneficiary pursuant to Section 5892 shall be treated as if they were claims made against the transferor's estate.
- (c) The personal representative shall provide a written statement of liability to the beneficiary, that specifies the amount that must be paid to the estate.
- (d) The beneficiary is personally liable to the estate for the amount specified in the statement of liability. Any amount that the beneficiary paid toward the unsecured debts of the transferor pursuant to Section 5892 shall be credited against the amount that the beneficiary owes the estate under this subdivision. If the amount that the beneficiary paid pursuant to Section 5892 exceeds the amount specified in the written statement of liability, the estate shall reimburse the difference to the beneficiary. For the purposes of Section 11420, this reimbursement shall be deemed an expense of administration.
- (e) In the event that the beneficiary and the personal representative cannot agree on the reimbursement or liability due under this section, the beneficiary or personal representative may petition the court for an order determining the amount of the reimbursement or liability.
- (f) The reasonable cost of proceeding under this section shall be reimbursed as an extraordinary service under Sections 10801 and 10811. The beneficiary is liable for the payment of that cost, which shall be separately identified in the statement of liability.
- Comment. Section 5896 is new. It provides a process for the determination and satisfaction of a beneficiary's share of liability for the unsecured debts of the transferor. A beneficiary who pays the indicated amount to the estate has no personal liability under Section 5892. See Section 5894(a).
- Note. Proposed Section 5896 is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer* on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That
- 39 provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

§ 5898. Voluntary return of property to estate

5898. (a) If proceedings for the administration of the transferor's estate are commenced, a beneficiary who receives property from the transferor under a TOD

registration may voluntarily return that property to the transferor's estate for administration.

- (b) Property returned to the transferor's estate under this section shall be treated as if it had been specifically devised to the beneficiary by the transferor.
- (c) If the beneficiary's action or inaction increased the value of property returned to the estate or decreased the estate's obligations, the estate shall reimburse the beneficiary by the same amount. Actions or inaction that increase the value of returned property or decrease the estate's obligations include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following actions:
 - (1) A payment toward an unsecured debt of the decedent.

- (2) A payment toward a debt secured against the returned property.
- (3) A significant improvement of the returned property that increased the fair market value of the property.
- (d) If the beneficiary's action or inaction decreased the value of property returned to the estate or increased the estate's obligations, the beneficiary is personally liable to the estate for that amount. Actions or inaction that decrease the value of the returned property or increase the estate's obligations include, but are not necessarily limited to, an action or inaction that resulted in a lien or encumbrance being recorded against the property.
- (e) The personal representative shall provide the beneficiary a written statement of any reimbursement or liability under this section, along with a statement of the reasons for the reimbursement or liability. For the purposes of Section 11420, any reimbursement under this section shall be deemed an expense of administration.
- (f) In the event that the beneficiary and the personal representative cannot agree on the reimbursement or liability due under this section, the beneficiary or personal representative may petition the court for an order determining the amount of the reimbursement or liability. In making a decision under this subdivision, the court should consider the surrounding circumstances, including whether the parties acted in good faith and whether a particular result would impose an unfair burden on the beneficiary or the estate.
- **Comment.** Section 5898 is new. It provides the beneficiary of a revocable transfer on death deed the option of voluntarily returning property received under the deed to the transferor's estate for administration. A beneficiary who returns property to the estate under this section has no personal liability under Section 5892. See Section 5894(a).
- **Note**. Proposed Section 5898 is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study*, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

CHAPTER 4. EFFECTUATION OF TRANSFER

§ 5950. Effectuation of transfer

5950. (a) On receipt of a copy of the transferor's death certificate and compliance with any applicable requirements of the stock cooperative, the stock cooperative shall reregister property that is governed by a TOD registration in the name of the beneficiary.

- (b) For the purposes of this section, the beneficiary is a person empowered by statute to act on behalf of the transferor or the transferor's estate within the meaning of Section 103526 of the Health and Safety Code.
- (c) For the purpose of filing the change in ownership statement required by Section 480 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the beneficiary is a transferee of real property by reason of death.
- (d) For the purpose of giving the notice to the Director of Health Care Services provided for in Section 215, the beneficiary is a beneficiary of the transferor.
- (e) The beneficiary is liable to the transferor's estate for prorated estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes to the extent provided in Division 10 (commencing with Section 20100).
- **Comment.** Section 5950 is new. For similar provisions see Sections 5507 (TOD registration of security), 5680 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5952. Bona fide purchaser or encumbrancer

- 5952. If both of the following conditions are satisfied, a person dealing with a beneficiary of a TOD registration shall have the same rights and protections as the person would have if the beneficiary had been named as a distributee of the property in an order for distribution of the transferor's estate that had become final:
 - (a) The person acted in good faith and for a valuable consideration.
- (b) An affidavit of death was recorded for the property under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 210) of Part 4 of Division 2.
- **Comment**. Section 5952 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5682 (revocable transfer on death deed).

CHAPTER 5. CONTEST

§ 5970. Contest

- 5970. (a) (1) An action for the disqualification of a beneficiary under Part 3.7 (commencing with Section 21360) of Division 11 may be brought to contest the validity of a transfer of property by a TOD registration.
- (2) An action to contest the validity of a transfer of property by a TOD registration may be filed by the transferor's personal representative or an interested person under Part 19 (commencing with Section 850) of Division 2.
- (3) An action to contest the validity of a revocation of TOD registration may be filed by the transferor's personal representative or a beneficiary of the revoked TOD registration under Part 19 (commencing with Section 850) of Division 2. If the contest is successful, the court shall determine the appropriate remedy, which may include revival of the revoked TOD registration. In deciding the remedy, the court shall attempt to effectuate the intentions of the transferor.
- (b) The proper county for a contest proceeding is the proper county for proceedings concerning administration of the transferor's estate, whether or not proceedings

- 1 concerning administration of the transferor's estate have been commenced at the time of 2 the contest.
- 3 (c) On commencement of a contest proceeding, the contestant may record a lis pendens 4 in the county in which the TOD registration is recorded.
- Comment. Section 5970 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5690 (revocable transfer on death deed).
- 7 Note. Proposed Section 5970(a)(3) is drawn from a provision recommended by the Commission
- 8 in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally Revocable
- 9 Transfer on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019).
- 10 That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

§ 5972. Timing of contest

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- 5972. (a) A contest proceeding pursuant to Section 5970 shall not be commenced before the transferor's death.
- 14 (b) For the purposes of the applicable limitations period, a contest proceeding accrues 15 on the date of the transferor's death.
- 16 **Comment.** Section 5972 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5692 (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5974. Available relief

- 5974. If the court in a contest proceeding determines that a transfer of property by a TOD registration is invalid, the court shall order the following relief:
- 21 (a) If the proceeding was commenced and a lis pendens was recorded within 120 days 22 after the transferor's death, the court shall void the TOD registration and order transfer of 23 the property to the person entitled to it.
 - (b) If the proceeding was not commenced and a lis pendens was not recorded within 120 days after the transferor's death, the court shall grant appropriate relief but the court order shall not affect the rights in the property of a purchaser or encumbrancer for value and in good faith acquired before commencement of the proceeding and recordation of a lis pendens.
- Comment. Section 5974 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5694 (revocable transfer on death deed).

31 § 5976. Effect on existing grounds for contest

- 32 5976. Nothing in this chapter limits the application of principles of fraud, undue
- influence, duress, mistake, or other invalidating cause to a transfer of property by a TOD
- 34 registration.
- Comment. Section 5976 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5696(a) (revocable transfer on death deed).

37 § 5978. Action by conservator or guardian

- 5978. Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 5972, the conservator or guardian of
- a transferor may, before the transferor's death, petition the court for invalidation of a
- 40 TOD registration executed by the transferor.

Comment. Section 5978 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5696(b) (revocable transfer on death deed).

§ 5980. Liability of stock cooperative

- 5980. (a) A stock cooperative is discharged from all claims to property in the stock cooperative by the estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees of a deceased owner if it registers a transfer of the property in accordance with Section 5950 and does so in good faith reliance on (1) the TOD registration, (2) this part, and (3) proof of the transferor's death.
- (b) The protections of this part do not extend to a transfer of property by TOD registration after the stock cooperative has received written notice from an interested person alleging that the TOD registration should not be given effect. The service of a lis pendens on the stock cooperative, giving notice of a pending contest, is sufficient for this purpose.
- (c) No other notice or information available to the stock cooperative shall affect its right to protection under this part.
- (d) The protection provided by this part to the stock cooperative does not affect the rights of interested persons in disputes between themselves regarding the validity of the TOD registration and ownership of the property.
- **Comment**. Section 5980 is new. For a similar provision see Section 5508(c) (TOD registration of security).

CONFORMING REVISIONS

21	Gov't Code § 27281 (amended). Public entity as beneficiary
22	SEC Government Code Section 27281 would be amended to read as follows:
23	27281. (a) Deeds or grants conveying any interest in or easement upon real estate to a
24	political corporation or governmental agency for public purposes shall not be accepted
25	for recordation without the consent of the grantee evidenced by its certificate or
26	resolution of acceptance attached to or printed on the deed or grant. If a certificate of
27	acceptance is used, it shall be in substantially the following form:
	This is to certify that the interest in real property conveyed by the deed or grant dated from to, a political corporation and/or governmental agency is hereby accepted by order
	of the
	(legislative body) on (date) ,
	(or by the undersigned officer or agent on behalf of
	the (legislative body)
	pursuant to authority conferred by resolution of the
	(legislative body) adopted on (date) ,)
	and the grantee consents to recordation thereof by its duly authorized officer.
	DatedBy
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(b) A political corporation or governmental agency, by a general resolution, may authorize one or more officers or agents to accept and consent to such deeds or grants a deed or grant described in subdivision (a).

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(c) In cases where the county tax collector files purchaser's deeds with respect to a sale for defaulted taxes, the information contained in those documents shall be deemed to constitute compliance with this section.

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- (d) The requirements of this section shall not apply to a deed of trust or other security or regulatory document recorded by or on behalf of a state agency pursuant to a program or activity of the agency authorized by statute or regulation.
- (e) Subdivision (a) does not apply to a TOD registration of an interest in a stock cooperative.
- (f) A TOD registration of property in a stock cooperative that names a political corporation or governmental agency as a beneficiary does not transfer title to that political corporation or governmental agency unless and until the political corporation or governmental agency records a resolution of acceptance or a certificate of consent in a form substantially similar to the form prescribed in subdivision (a).
- **Comment.** Section 27281(e) is added to exempt a TOD registration of property in a stock cooperative from subdivision (a). Such an instrument can be recorded without the prior consent of a political corporation or governmental entity named as beneficiary. However, the TOD registration will not operate to transfer ownership to the political corporation or governmental entity until that entity records evidence of its consent under subdivision (f).
- Note. The proposed amendment of Section 27281 is drawn from a revision recommended by the Commission in its follow-up study of the revocable transfer on death deed statute. See generally *Revocable Transfer on Death Deed: Follow-Up Study*, 46 Cal. L. Revision Comm'n Reports 135 (2019). That provision would be implemented by pending bill SB 315 (Roth).

28 Prob. Code §§ 900-925 (added). Gift in view of impending death

SEC. ____. Part 22 (commencing with Section 900) is added to Division 2 of the Probate Code, to read:

PART 22. GIFT IN VIEW OF IMPENDING DEATH

- 900. As used in this part, "gift" means a transfer of personal property made voluntarily and without consideration.
- 905. (a) A gift in view of impending death is one which is made in contemplation, fear, or peril of impending death, whether from illness or other cause, and with intent that it shall be revoked if the giver recovers from the illness or escapes from the peril.
- 37 (b) A reference in a statute to a gift in view of death means a gift in view of impending death.

- 910. A gift made during the last illness of the giver, or under circumstances which 1
- would naturally impress the giver with an expectation of speedy death, is presumed to be 2
- a gift in view of impending death. 3
- 915. (a) A gift in view of impending death is revoked by: 4
- (1) The giver's recovery from the illness, or escape from the peril, under the presence 5 of which it was made. 6
 - (2) The death of the donee before the death of the giver.
- (b) A gift in view of impending death may be revoked by: 8
- 9 (1) The giver at any time.
- (2) The giver's will if the will expresses an intention to revoke the gift. 10
- (c) A gift in view of impending death is not affected by a previous will of the giver. 11
- (d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), when the gift has been delivered to the 12
- donee, the rights of a purchaser or encumbrancer, acting before the revocation in good 13
- faith, for a valuable consideration, and without knowledge of the conditional nature of the 14
- gift, are not affected by the revocation. 15
- 920. A gift in view of impending death is subject to Section 9653. 16
- 925. Except as provided in this part, a gift in view of impending death is subject to the 17
- general law relating to gifts of personal property. 18
- 19 Comment. Part 22 continues former Part 5 (commencing with Section 5700) of Division 5 20 without change.
- Prob. Code §§ 5700-5705 (repealed). Gift in view of impending death 21
- SEC. ____. Part 5 (commencing with Section 5700) of Division 5 of the Probate Code is 22
- 23 repealed.

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- Comment. Former Part 5 is continued without change in Part 22 (commencing with Section 24
- 25 900) of Division 2.